

Sramik League office on school ground

EAM ASADUZZAMAN,
Nilphamari

Surprisingly though, an office of pro-ruling party Sramik League runs on the ground of 'Free Amin Government Primary School' at Rasulpur in Saidpur municipality under the district.

Set up on a railway land in 1952, the school was nationalised in 1973.

Around 300 kids read at the school where nine teachers are serving now.

A couple of years ago, local leaders of Railway Sramik League (open line) constructed an office building on the school ground, informed locals.

The school achieves almost 100% pass rate in primary school certificate (PSC) examinations and usually does well in inter primary school games and sports competition in upazila and district levels, school sources said.

The education directorate in 2007 arranged for the school a new three-storied spacious building.

But school children hardly get any opportunity to play in leisure periods or after classes as the field has become too narrow and many people gather due to various programmes at the party



PHOTO: STAR

Signboards of Free Amin Government Primary School and Bangladesh Railway Sramik League hung on the same premises as the pro-ruling party workers' organisation set up its office (X marked) on the school ground in Saidpur municipality under Nilphamari district a couple of years ago.

office situated on the same ground, said several students and guardians.

"We can't arrange games and sports at the school ground due to insufficient space," said Fatema Parvin, headmistress of the school.

Rafiqul Islam, secretary of Railway Sramik League (open line) in Saidpur, claimed that his organisation and the school author-

ity made a written agreement earlier, mentioning that both the party activists and the school teachers and students could use the front (school) ground for own programmes.

"We never go to the party office during school time. We attend there in the evening, long after the classes are closed," he added.

Abdus Sattar, president of

the school managing committee, said he had requested Sramik League leaders to shift the office to a different place.

Ahsan Habib, upazila primary education officer, suggested that Free Amin Government Primary School authorities raise the matter at the meeting of upazila education committee.

44 held while crossing border illegally

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Benapole, Jessore

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested 36 people while they were illegally entering Bangladesh from India through Putkhali border under Benapole Police station on Sunday night.

The border guards later arrested eight others while they were going to India without valid documents through the border point the same night.

Shamsur Rahman, in-charge of 23 BGB Battalion camp in Putkhali, said a BGB patrol team, acting on a tip-off, raided the border point at around 9:00pm and arrested 36 people, including 16 women and eight children, while they were entering Bangladesh.

Later, the BGB personnel arrested five men and three women while they were going to India through the border point illegally.

All the arrestees hail from different areas of Gopalganj, Khulna, and Narail districts, BGB sources said, adding that the human traffickers fled the scene, sensing the presence of BGB team.

Apurbo Hasan, officer-in-charge of Benapole Port Police Station, said the arrestees were handed over to Benapole Port Police Station yesterday morning.

THEFT OR MERE SUSPICION!

Three women brutally tortured at jeweller's

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

Employees of a jewellery shop in the town beat up three women, cut off their hair and kept them detained for four hours on suspicion of stealing gold ornaments yesterday, sources said.

The three women wearing yashmaks came to Faruk Jeweller's at Chawkbazar in Dinajpur town, to buy gold ornaments at around 11:00am yesterday, said witnesses.

Md Nixon, manager of the shop, was helping them to see required items.

Around 20 minutes later, locals heard a chaos as the shop employees downed the shutters and closed the collapsible gate and started beating the three women

mercilessly, accusing them of stealing a gold chain.

Locals said Md Munna, his brother Md Razu, and Md Rana -- all employees of Faruk Jeweller's, beat up the women, cut off their hair with scissors and kept them confined to the shops.

The cut hair was thrown outside the shops.

Visiting the spot around 1:40pm, this correspondent found a large number of people thronging there while hair was lying in the street and in front of the shops that were kept locked from outside.

Md Razu said, "The three women's hair was cut off as they stole a gold chain."

The three women, who were released around 2:00pm, said somehow a

chain got stuck with the yashmak of one of them and it led to the horrible incident.

They sought not to spread the incident, considering their 'social status'.

Md Altaf Hossain, officer in charge of Dinajpur Sadar Police Station, said, "I heard about the incident. Md Mozammel Haque, secretary of Dinajpur Jewellery Traders Association, will settle the matter."

Mozammel Haque, also owner of Mousumi Jeweller's in Dinajpur, said, "The women were released after taking an undertaking. They had committed theft."

Interestingly, Mozammel admitted that a total of two and a half tolas of used gold ornaments were found to be worn by the three women.



PHOTO: STAR

People gather in front of Faruk Jewellery at Chawkbazar in Dinajpur town as three women customers were beaten and confined there on suspicion of stealing a gold chain. Inset, parts of hair, cut by jewellery shop employees from the heads of the three victims, lie in front of the shop.

SNIPPETS

Smuggled goods seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized smuggled goods, including camera, mobile phone sets, sarees and cloths, worth Tk 44.5 lakh from Amrakhali area in Benapole yesterday. Major Liaquat Hossain, department commander of BGB-26 Battalion, said on secret information, a team of BGB raided the area and seized the goods. However, the smugglers managed to flee, sensing the presence of the border guards.

Girl violated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A six-year-old schoolgirl was raped in Chadarkhil area under Manikchhari upazila on Sunday noon. Police and family sources said a local youth picked up the girl from the school's toilet, took her to a tranquil place and raped her. She was rushed to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital in critical condition. Meanwhile, the leaders of Bangalee Chhatra Parishad formed a human chain and held rally in Shapla Chattar area of the district town yesterday, demanding immediate arrest of the rapist.

Motorbike lifter arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Police arrested an alleged motorbike lifter at Rekhakhali village in Zianagar upazila on Sunday night. The arrestee is Al Amin, 25, son of late Abdus Samad of Bokshiganj upazila in Jamalpur district. Indurkani police said Al Amin and another youth hired a motorbike from Pirojpur Bus Terminal for going to Zianagar. They tied driver Alamgir and took away the motorcycle. Hearing scream, locals chased the duo and caught Al Amin.

Robbers kill one, injure 2

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Rangpur

Robbers stabbed a rickshaw-puller to death and injured two members of a family at Shankarpur-Foyezpara village in Badarganj upazila on early Sunday.

The deceased Anwarul Haque, 35, son of Aminul Haque of the village, succumbed to his injuries at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) at noon.

Police quoted locals as saying that a gang of 20/25 robbers stormed into the house of Ataur Rahman of the village by breaking open the door around 2:00am and kept the family members hostage at gunpoint.

The gang stabbed Ataur and his wife Parvin Begum. Hearing screams, neighbour Anwarul rushed to the spot, but the gang also stabbed him. Anwar was admitted to Badarganj Hospital and then shifted to RMCH where he died.

Two drown, 13 hurt as 2 boats capsize

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Brahmanbaria

Two women drowned and at least 13 others were injured when two passenger boats capsized in Rasulpur beel (water body) and Titas River in Nabinagar upazila at the same time on Sunday evening.

The deceased are Kohinoor Begum, 36, wife of Abdul Bari, and Begum Akhter, 40, wife of Phul Mia of Kurighar village in the upazila.

Local sources said two engine driven boats, each carrying 50 to 55 passengers, were heading towards Kurighar village and Nabinagar upazila headquarters from Gukarna Ghat in Sadar upazila on Sunday afternoon.

As the Kurighar-bound boat reach the middle of the water body around 5:30pm, it overturned due to strong current and sank. Two women went missing and at least 10 others were injured in the incident.

At the same time, the other boat, which was heading for Nabinagar sank in Titas River duo to the same reason. At least three passengers were injured in the boat capsize.

Seeing the boats sinking, four engine boats from nearby places rushed to the spot and rescued the injured passengers. The boatmen, later, recovered the bodies of the two women.

The other passengers of the two boats, however, managed to swim ashore.

Villagers join hands to repair dyke

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gaibandha

Hundreds of villagers have joined hands to repair two large breaches developed in the flood control dyke due to sudden increase of water level in Bangali River under Gobindaganj upazila.

Due to incessant rain for the last few days and onrush of water from upstream, the breaches have developed in the dyke at Bochadaha

point.

On Sunday morning, the situation turned vulnerable as the water from the river started entering the area through the breach points.

Finding no other alternative, people of the area voluntarily started repairing the breach portions by putting sand bags.

If the dyke collapsed, vast areas of Mohimaganj, Kochashaher, Shibpur, Rakhali Bruj, Kamardaha

and Salmara unions would go under the water, said locals.

"Finally we repair the breach portions by erecting bamboo spars and dumping sand bags," said Mokhes, a farm labourer.

It could be difficult to save the dyke if the villagers did not do the job on a voluntary basis, said Abdul Latif Proddhan, chairman of Mohimaganj union parishad.



PHOTO: STAR

Villagers render voluntary service to repair the breached portion of the flood control embankment on the Bangali River at Bochadaha in Gobindaganj upazila under Gaibandha district.

Latif's remarks

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viral in the social media.

In a report telecast by ETV yesterday, Latif said, "During Hajj, so much manpower is wasted. More than 20 lakh people have gone to Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj. They have no work, no production and are offering only deduction."

He added some 20 lakh Tablighi Jamaat people get together annually who do not do any work except for halting traffic movement of the whole country.

According to the ETV clip, he also made critical comments about Sajeeb Wazed Joy, the prime minister's son.

While replying to a query about Joy, who is also PM's information technology adviser, Latif said, "He [Joy] plans. Anybody can plan. You Siddiquir Rahman [an expatriate sitting by him at the meeting] can also plan."

As a reporter objected to some of his remarks, the minister got angry and

said, "Should I talk like you? I will talk as I want. Are you from Tangail? I have not called you here."

Meanwhile, in response to the minister's remarks, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said Islam and Muslims are not safe in the hands of this government.

"A minister of this government has made derogatory remarks about Islam in America," she told a discussion at her Gulshan office last night.

Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh in a statement demanded removal of the minister from the cabinet in 24 hours and said Latif would not be allowed to step into Bangladesh.

Condemning the minister's remarks, Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mujibur Rahman demanded apology and withdrawal of those comments.

The Islami Oikya Jote and Nejam-e-Islam Party staged a demonstration yesterday afternoon and burnt the minister's effigy at Lalbagh in the capital.